

HOUSE RESOLUTION 186
By Jones U

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Lee R. Brown on his meritorious service to the citizens of the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Dr. Lee R. Brown, the Senior Pastor at Springdale Baptist Church in Memphis and a Commissioner of the Memphis City Schools Board, District One; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Brown was ordained at the Keel Avenue Baptist Church in Memphis by the late Pastor Perdy Moody and served as an Intern Minister at East Trigg Baptist Church under the tutelage of the late Reverend Doctor William Herbert Brewster, Sr., in 1970 and 1971; and

WHEREAS, he later served as the Assistant Pastor to the late Reverend Jesse E. Clark at Oak Grove Baptist Church from 1974 to 1979; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lee Brown was called to Springdale Baptist Church, his only pastorage, in September of 1979; during his tenure at Springdale Baptist, the membership has increased tremendously, the budget has grown exponentially, and the church itself has been completely redesigned and renovated; and

WHEREAS, also, during Dr. Brown's tenure, an inclusive Christian Education Program has been instituted with an early Sunday Morning Bible Study Class of over 100 members, and a Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting of nearly 100 participants, an Annual Church Retreat, and a Leadership School with nearly 300 students from across the city have been inaugurated; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his innumerable pastoral duties, Dr. Brown still finds time to lend his remarkable talents to such notable causes as the Memphis Baptist Ministerial Association, which he formerly served as President; the Greater Memphis Sunday School and Nurture for Baptist Churches' Congress, which he served as Dean; and the Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Education Convention's Congress, which he currently serves as President and as a member of the Business (Trustees) Committee and which he formerly served as the Dean and Director of its Youth Encampment; and

WHEREAS, he also serves as a member of the faculty of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, where he is Director of the Department of Church Administration, and he previously served as the President of the Memphis (Baptist) District Association's Congress and as the Second Vice Moderator of the Association; and

WHEREAS, in civic affairs, Dr. Brown has served as a member of the Board of Habitat/Mid-South from 1988 to 1990; the current Chairman for the Tennessee Selective Service Local Branch #4, he is an active and well-respected leader in local politics; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Brown diligently served on Memphis' Mayor W.W. Herenton's Transitional Team's Intergovernmental Committee, the Black on Black Crime Task Force, and the Memphis Foundation for Home Ownership Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, currently, he serves as a Commissioner for the Memphis Alcohol Commission, and in December of 2000, he was elected as the first African-American District One Memphis City Schools Board of Education Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, as a Commissioner of the Memphis City Schools Board of Education, Dr. Brown affords five seniors who attend high schools in his district the opportunity to win a \$1,000 scholarship, the Dr. Lee Brown Scholarship, which is awarded to graduating seniors whose plans are to return to the Memphis City Schools as an educator upon graduating from college; and

WHEREAS, listed in several prestigious publications, including *Outstanding Young Men of America*, *Who's Who in Religion*, *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*, *Who's Who in America*, and the *International Book of Honor*, Dr. Brown attended the Memphis Theological Seminary, where he served on the Curriculum Committee and was Vice President of the Student Senate; in 1992, he graduated with a Master's of Divinity and received the Aston Award for Outstanding African American Student; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, he was presented the Henry Logan Starks Alumni Award, and in 1994, the Tennessee School of Religion honored him with an honorary Doctor of Divinity for his religious and civic services as a community leader in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lee Brown epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his manifold accomplishments aside, Dr. Brown is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Charles Etta Jackson Brown, the Principal at Scenic Hills Elementary School; together, they are the proud parents of Felicha, a Kindergarten teacher at Grandview Heights Elementary School, and Le'Carl, the Owner of Zoser Tech Computer Service & Sales in East Memphis; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dr. Lee Brown for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we acknowledge and applaud Dr. Lee R. Brown for his dedication to the State of Tennessee exemplified by his religious and civic service, especially commending him for his dedication to the members of Springdale Baptist Church, the students of Memphis City Schools, and all of the citizens of the City of Memphis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.